BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

# Infoline

*Contact:* bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 09-41* *October 16, 2009*

- **Consumer prices fall 1.2% in September**
- **Manufacturing sales remain unchanged in August**
- **Motor vehicle sales slip 0.2% in August**

## Prices

- **Consumer prices in British Columbia were 1.2% lower in September compared to the same month a year earlier.** This most recent drop is the fourth consecutive year-over-year decline in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As has been the case over the past several months, falling energy prices (-16.3%) are the main contributing factor in this month's apparent deflation. However, excluding energy prices, the CPI rose 0.4% between September 2008 and September 2009.

  The cost of food rose 2.3% with increased prices for fish (+9.3%), milk (+5.2%) and bakery goods (+4.1%) pushing grocery bills higher (+2.3%). After skyrocketing earlier this year, prices for fresh vegetables have eased for a third straight month (-4.5%).

  While the price of maintaining and repairing a home continued to rise (+8.5%) the overall cost of home ownership was down 4.2% as a result of reduced replacement costs (-14.5%), natural gas prices (-20.2%) and lower mortgage interest costs. The cost of renting, on the other hand, was up 1.6%. Increased fees for cablevision & satellite services (+8.7%) pushed household operation & furnishing costs higher (+1.6%) as well.

  Transportation costs were down significantly from last year (-6.2%), primarily as a result of a 20.0% drop in the price for gasoline and a 5.6% dip in the purchase price of automobiles.

  Prices for clothing & footwear (+0.8%), health & personal care (+3.1%) as well as recreation, education & reading materials (+1.4%) were all higher in September, as was the cost of alcohol & tobacco (+2.6%).

  Compared to the provincial average, price decreases were slightly less in both Vancouver (-1.0%) and Victoria (-1.0%).

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationally, on a year-over-year basis, consumer prices were down 0.9% in September.** As was the case provincially, falling energy prices (-18.7%) exerted downward pressure on transportation costs (-7.2%) and was the main reason for the overall decline. The largest drops in the price level were registered in Prince Edward Island (-1.4%), BC (-1.2%), Alberta (-1.1%) and Ontario (-1.1%).

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Economy

- **Manufacturing sales in British Columbia remained virtually unchanged at $2.7 billion (*seasonally adjusted*) in August.** A second straight monthly decline in sales among food manufacturers (-3.7%) served to offset increased business for wood (+1.1%) and paper (+4.7%) producers. Primary metal (+6.9%) and non-metallic mineral (+0.7%) producers also registered increased sales.

  Nationally, manufacturers saw sales drop 2.1% to $40.9 billion in August as aerospace product (-35.6%) and automobile (-6.3%) makers reported weaker revenues. Newfoundland & Labrador (+10.2%), Alberta

Report

## Demand for Same-day Travel in B.C. by Americans

Did you know...

In 2009, the largest pumpkin ever to be grown in Canada tipped the scales at over 762kg!

(+4.9%) and New Brunswick (+1.8%) were the only provinces that registered increased sales while Quebec (-4.0%) and Ontario (-3.4%) accounted for the largest share of the national decrease. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new motor vehicles sold in British Columbia was off 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August compared to the previous month.** A lower number of purchases of new North American passenger cars (-6.2%) and trucks (-3.2%) were the primary reason for the dip in sales as the number of overseas-built vehicles actually rose (+2.9%) during the month.

  Nationally, the number of new motor vehicles fell 0.3% in August with slower passenger car sales largely responsible for the decline. Six provinces saw fewer sales with the largest declines registered in Saskatchewan (-5.7%), PEI (-5.2%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (-3.7%).

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **The number of Multiple Listing Service® residential sales in British Columbia climbed 67.9% in September compared to the same month last year.** Real estate boards across the province reported substantial double-digit increases with the exception of those located in the northern areas of BC. Year-to-date, the number of residential units sold is 6.3% higher in 2009 than it was in 2008.

  *Data Source: British Columbia Real Estate Association*

- **Year-over-year, contractor's selling prices for new homes (house and land) in British Columbia shrank 8.1% in August.** The decrease is entirely due to a sharp drop in the average price for a new house which has fallen 13.6% from the level established prior to the current economic downturn. Land prices, on the other hand, are unchanged from August 2008. The total price for a new home in Vancouver in August was 7.8% lower than it was in the previous year while the price for new homes in Victoria has dropped by 10.0%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Third Quarter in Review

- **During the third quarter, investment in non-residential building construction in the province slumped to $891 million (*2002 constant dollars; seasonally adjusted*), down 4.7% from the previous quarter.** This is the second consecutive quarterly decline in non-residential construction and is due to an 8.3% reduction in investment in commercial building. Both the industrial (+5.7%) and government (+5.5%) sectors registered increased spending on building construction. Nationally, spending on non-residential building construction was down 1.4% during the third quarter. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Crime

- **In 2007, family violence accounted for roughly one-quarter (23%) of all police-reported violent crime in Canada.** More than half (53%) of these incidents were perpetrated by a current or former spouse or common-law partner with spousal violence more likely to take place between current partners than between former partners. The vast majority (83%) of victims were women. Overall, however, the rate of police-reported spousal violence is down 15% from a decade earlier, primarily the result of a reduction in the rate of police-reported incidents of spousal violence against women. The rate for men remained relatively stable.

  The types of offenses inflicted on both male and female spouses were largely similar. Major assault - assault involving weapons or the infliction of serious bodily harm – was the main exception as roughly one-quarter (23%) of men reported a major assault compared to just over one-tenth (13%) of women.

  *Data Source: SC Cat no. 85-224-X*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Contact: Chad Stroomer and Werner Gründlingh
(250) 387-1124
originally published in
*Tourism Sector Monitor* Issue 09-08

# Demand for Same-day Travel in B.C. by Americans

## Introduction

Since the turn of the century, the number of Americans visiting British Columbia has dwindled. Between 2000 and 2008, the number of US residents entering Canada through BC has shrunk by more than one-third (-36.1%) from a peak of just over 7.0 million entries to less than 4.5 million entries. While the number of overnight travellers has fallen sharply (-15.3%), it is even more interesting that the number of same-day visitors has dropped by more than half (-57.7%), to its lowest level since 1972 (the first year of the current series).

**Since 2000, the number of American entries has declined rapidly**

*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

This begs the question, what has happened to drive the number of same-day entries from the US to record low levels? Can these effects be measured? Understanding the factors that contributed to the decline seen over the past decade can be crucial to revealing their relative importance to a stable demand model for same-day travel.

## A modelling exercise

To that end this article will outline an attempt to model demand for same-day travel to BC by Americans using regression analysis. The model investigates a number of factors which may be influencing same-day travel plans.

A novel feature of the techniques used is that it is possible to divide the discussion of the model into two parts, a "short-run" component that illustrates the relationship between year-to-year growth rates taking into account specific events or shocks, and a "long-run" component that presents the relationship without any shocks that would wash out over a sufficiently long period of time. It is also possible to explicitly exploit a long-run relationship between the variables used. For ease of understanding, however, the focus will be on the long-term results.

## Demand for same-day travel

Before plunging too deeply into data, equations and statistics, it is important to consider a definition of "demand for same-day travel." Demand for a good or service isn't something that can be directly observed—it is a measure of a desire to consume something and a willingness to pay for it.

How can the "desire of Americans to travel to BC" be measured? There are a number of variables that might be considered appropriate, but for the purposes of this article it is a choice between two measures: the number of travellers that actually come to BC from the US and the amount that Americans spend while they are here. Because data on the number of Americans that enter BC are tracked accurately, the number of "same-day visitor entries to BC by US residents" will serve as a proxy for same-day travel demand.

Given a definition of demand for same-day travel as the number of same-day visitors, it is important to explore possible variables that might drive demand. Fortunately, economic theory and intuition provide us with an idea of how to proceed.

There are many factors that go into the choice to travel to a different country, but for the sake of simplicity the choice comes down to:

- the amount of money the average American has available (i.e., real personal disposable income per capita);
- the cost of transportation to BC from the US (i.e., a transportation "price index" for the United States); and
- the cost of travelling within BC relative to the cost of travelling within US (i.e., an exchange rate adjusted relative travel price index).

The extent to which each of these factors influences same-day travel by Americans was tested using econometric analysis. The results are summarized below.

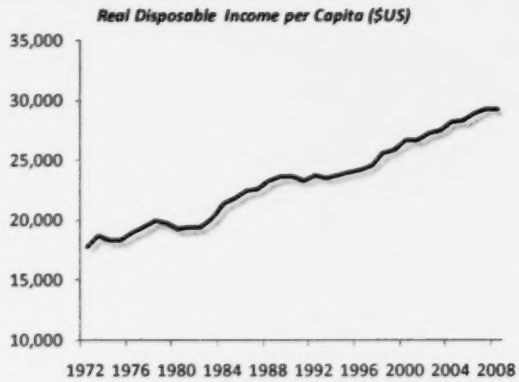
**Disposable income**

It probably isn't surprising that income plays a role in the choice to travel. Travel expenditures are discretionary, so the more money a potential American traveller has in-hand, the more likely it is that travel plans could include a trip across the border.

Data for total disposable income earned in the United States is divided by the population to derive a per capita disposable income variable. Further, per capita disposable income has been adjusted for inflation using the "all-items" Consumer Price Index for the United States. The end result is real disposable income per capita.

As expected, the model shows that an increase in US real disposable income per capita leads to more same-day visitors from the US. Specifically, the model suggests that, on average, a one percent increase (or decrease) in disposable income results in a roughly five percent (4.7%) hike (or drop) in the number of American same-day travellers. These results confirm that travel is a luxury good and therefore very sensitive to changes in income.

**The more money Americans make, the more likely they are to travel to BC**




*Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce & BC Stats*

**Cost of transportation**

Price plays a large role in any purchasing decision. If an item costs more than an individual is willing to pay for it, that person doesn't buy it. The same is true for transportation. Transportation from the US to British Columbia involves the purchase of different goods and services depending on how a potential visitor planned to travel to BC and includes such goods as gasoline (if driving) and services such as fares (if flying or taking a bus or ferry).

Therefore, a weighted average of price indexes related to these factors was calculated in order to create a rough "basket" of transportation goods and services relevant to transportation assuming that these costs are incurred in the United States. In other words, it is assumed that same-day visitors buy their gasoline or pay for their tickets before crossing into BC.

**Have rising transportation costs contributed to the decline in the number of American visitors?**

*Data Source: U.S. Department of Labour & BC Stats*

Not surprisingly, the model confirms that an increase in transportation costs results in a decrease in the number of same-day visitors. In fact, the model suggests that on average, a one percent rise in transportation costs leads to a one and a half percent (1.5%) drop in the volume of American same-day travellers. This result also suggests that demand for same-day travel may respond disproportionately to changes in transportation costs.

**Relative prices**

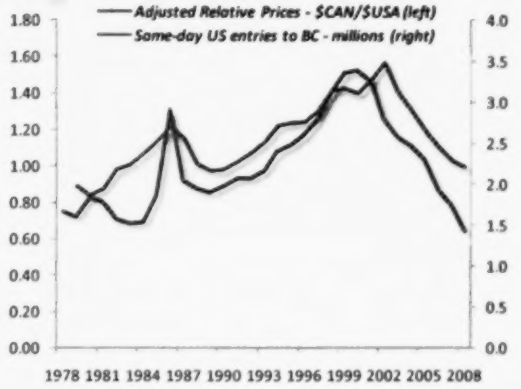
When making a choice to buy something, it isn't just income and the price of the item that affect one's decision. Purchasing decisions often account for the price of some other good or service that might be a substitute for it. For the sake of simplicity, it is assumed that a potential traveller from the United States chooses between travelling to BC and travelling within the United States.

In order to capture this effect, comparable composite price indexes for travel expenses in BC and travel within the United States were constructed. Taking a ratio of one to the other yields an index of relative price changes for travel over time. This travel basket includes indexes for the cost of food, gasoline, airfares and other modes of transportation.

Also, because the exchange rate between the Canadian and American currencies fluctuates, it is appropriate to adjust this relative price change index by the exchange rate faced by Americans (Canadian dollars per US dollar). This exchange rate adjusted relative price change for travel can also be thought of as a real exchange rate or as a measure of the relative buying power that an American has while travelling in BC compared to travelling closer to home.

Interestingly, the behaviour of the exchange rate adjusted relative price index and the volume of same-day entries is very similar. This makes intuitive sense. As Americans' relative buying power improves, so do the number of Americans that decide to cross the border into BC. Conversely, as relative buying power diminishes, the number of same-day visitors drops off.

**Buying power and same-day visits rise and fall together**




*Data Source: U.S. Department of Labour, Statistics Canada, Bank of Canada & BC Stats*

The results of the model confirm this intuition, indicating that in the long-run, a one percent increase in American buying power leads to a slightly more than one percent (1.2%) rise in the number of same-day entries from the US. Also, as was the case for the cost of transportation, a change in buying power affects the number of visitor entries disproportionately more. This

fact also illustrates that travel to BC and travel within the US are substitutes for each other.

**Expo'86, September 11 and SARS/Iraq war**

So far this discussion has been primarily focused on the long-run relationship between these variables. However, there are a number of other factors, such as certain significant events, that might affect year-to-year changes in demand for same-day travel in the short-run. Some of these have been included as a part of the short-run component of the model, as it is expected that the effects of these events eventually fade over time. These events have been modelled as a number of "dummy" variables that are equal to one at the moment in time of the event and zero elsewhere. The effect of including such dummy variables is to explicitly indicate the fact that these events are shocks that produce temporary deviations from the "normal" level of the series.

Expo'86 lasted five and a half months and brought millions of visitors into BC. The effect that Expo'86 had on the volume of US visitors during that year can be seen in the increase in the number of American same-day entries (+56.3%). Therefore, a dummy variable has been introduced to account for the "spike" observed in same-day travel from the US in that year. Not surprisingly, the model confirms that Expo'86 was a significant event that positively impacted growth in same-day visitor entries for that year.

The terror attacks of September 11, 2001 have, in many ways, had lingering effects on policy when it comes to travel. This model assumes that the ramifications will be realized in the short-run. The model supports the fact that September 11th had a negative effect on same-day travel, but it also finds that the effect is not statistically different from zero.

In 2003, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS was largely contained in the Toronto area, but wide-spread concern, a World Health Organization travel advisory and a flurry of media attention around the disease may have had some effects on same-day travel to Canada by Americans, including BC. At this time, the conflict in Iraq began and the uncertainty surrounding the immediate aftermath of the invasion may have also contributed to a decline in demand for same-day travel. Therefore, a dummy variable was introduced to the model to take into account the events of 2003. While the model confirms that these events did have a statistically significant negative impact on the number of same-day travellers from the US, it isn't possible to divide the effects of one event from the other.

**Other features of the model**

Given the framework of the model, another result of the model captured by the short-run component is an "error correction term." The coefficient of this term illustrates the speed at which "shocks" that drive the relationship out of balance are absorbed as the variables revert back to their long-run relationship.

According to the current model, the effects of a given shock to income, the real exchange rate or transportation costs, will be adjusted to at a rate of 36.1% per year, a rather slow rate of adjustment. That said, roughly nine-tenths (89.3%) of a given shock would be accounted for after approximately five years.

**Conclusion**

In this article, a model of demand for same-day travel to BC by Americans was constructed. This model accounts for the fact that there exists a statistically significant long-run equation that is expressed by visitor entries as a function of real per capita disposable income, the real exchange rate between Canada and the US, and the cost of transportation to BC. The model also included a short-run component that attempts to capture the effects of events such as Expo'86, the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 and SARS/Iraq war.

For the most part, the results of the model confirm previous and comparable modelling strategies. Due to the nature of the modelling technique used, it also provides additional, potentially useful information such as the speed at which a short term "shock" to a variable of the model is absorbed.

That said, some assumptions made may affect the results obtained. Chief among these is the assumption that there is a single long-term relationship and that the relationship is unbroken. While there is statistical evidence to suggest a single unbroken long-run relationship, the tests used are known to have less than optimal power.

Another assumption is that dummy variables are treated as short-term events that introduce temporary deviations in the long-run demand rather than a permanent shift. For example, this model treats the effects of September 11th as a "shock" that affects demand for same-day travel for a relatively short period of time; an argument can be made that this event permanently altered demand and should be treated as a factor in establishing a new long-run relationship.

Other factors, not easily measurable at this time, could also play a role in either the long-run or short-run relationships considered here. For instance, new rules for travel, including more stringent security checks at the border, potentially longer wait times and the recent (June 2009) adoption of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirement to have appropriate documentation to travel between Canada and the US have likely also affected demand for same-day travel. However, these factors are less easily measured, and for that reason have been excluded from the analysis.

Finally, it is reasonable to assume that the bulk of US same-day entries into BC come from Washington State. Consequently, an analysis using state-specific data (visitor entries, disposal income and transportation costs, if available) might improve the model quality.

# Appendix: Methodology and Model Results

## Cointegration results

Using the Engle and Granger (1987) method to test for the presence of a cointegrating vector between the variables, each of the series considered part of the long-run relationship were subjected to *Augmented Dickey-Fuller* (ADF) tests for unit roots. Each series were found to contain a unit root process in the levels, but not in the first difference, leaving them all integrated of order one, $I(1)$.

Null Hypothesis: unit root

| Variable | $p$-value |
|---|---|
| $ve1_t$ | 0.52 |
| $pdi_t$ | 0.96 |
| $rp1_t$ | 0.64 |
| $tc_t$ | 0.99 |

Following auxiliary regression of the number of same-day entries ($ve1_t$) on real per capita disposable income ($pdi_t$), the real exchange rate ($rp1_t$) and transportation costs ($tc_t$), residuals ($v_t$) from this series were obtained and an ADF test was performed on them. Supporting a hypothesis of a unit root would suggest that there is no cointegration (*i.e.*, no long-run equilibrium).

Null Hypothesis: unit root

| Variable | $p$-value |
|---|---|
| $v_t$ | 0.00 |

Rejecting the hypothesis of a unit root in the residuals, we can consider these results indicative of a long-run equilibrium relationship that can be exploited through the use of a one-equation error correction model with two lags (chosen by *Schwarz's Bayesian Information Criteria*) and one cointegrating vector.

The long-run cointegrating equation in the levels is given by:

Dependent variable: $\ln ve1_t$

| Regressor | Coefficient | Standard Error | $t$-ratio |
|---|---|---|---|
| $\ln pdi_t$ | 4.67 | 1.30 | 3.59 |
| $\ln rp1_t$ | 1.25 | 0.28 | 4.51 |
| $\ln tc_t$ | –1.50 | 0.46 | –3.28 |
| *constant* | –32.07 | 11.26 | –2.85 |

The corresponding conditional error correction model is given by:

Dependent variable: $\Delta \ln ve1_t$

| Regressor | Coefficient | Standard Error | $t$-ratio |
|---|---|---|---|
| $v_{t-1}$ | 0.36 | 0.17 | NA |
| $\Delta \ln ve1_{t-1}$ | –0.51 | 0.14 | –3.54 |
| $\Delta \ln ve1_{t-2}$ | –0.30 | 0.12 | –2.41 |
| $\Delta \ln pdi_{t-1}$ | 2.43 | 0.98 | 2.48 |
| $\Delta \ln pdi_{t-2}$ | –2.23 | 1.01 | –2.21 |
| $\Delta \ln rp1_{t-1}$ | 1.50 | 0.40 | 3.77 |
| $\Delta \ln rp1_{t-2}$ | –0.59 | 0.35 | –1.66 |
| $\Delta \ln tc_{t-1}$ | 1.02 | 0.51 | 1.99 |
| $\Delta \ln tc_{t-2}$ | –2.23 | 0.38 | –5.83 |
| $d_{expo\ 86}$ | 0.59 | 0.10 | 5.86 |
| $d_{sept\ 11}$ | –0.10 | 0.08 | –1.16 |
| $d_{SARS\ /Iraq}$ | –0.18 | 0.09 | –2.08 |

$\bar{R}^2 = 0.754 \quad \hat{\sigma} = 0.076 \quad AIC = -2.14 \quad SBC = -1.57$

$\bar{R}^2$ is the adjusted squared multiple correlation coefficient, $\hat{\sigma}$ is the standard error of the regression, *AIC* and *SBC* are the *Akaike's* and *Schwarz's Bayesian Information Criteria*.

## Diagnostics

Although not all of the regressors in the error correction model are significant, there is no evidence of serial correlation or heteroskedasticity. Further investigation could explore the possibility of refining the specification through a distributed lag process rather than one that assumes that all autoregressive terms have the same order. Estimation of a system of simultaneous equations may also be of interest.

# Aboriginal Strategies 2009

Artwork, *The Visionary*, by Chris Aquart, Cold Lake First Nation, AB.

**Nov. 3, 2009 to Nov. 5, 2009**

**The Westin Hotel, Edmonton, AB**

**Share Knowledge | Empower People | Shape the Future**

## Aboriginal Strategies 2009

Statistics Canada presents Aboriginal Strategies 2009, a solutions-based three-day conference on how data is being used in Aboriginal communities in the western provinces and northern territories.

Aboriginal Strategies 2009, provides a venue for Aboriginal community leaders and developers, local policy makers, decision-makers, and practitioners to share how data can be used to build vibrant, sustainable communities.

The three-day conference, will showcase successes by sharing knowledge, experiences, best practices and challenges in five different areas:

- children, families and youth;
- economic development and labour market;
- health and well-being;
- the North;
- urban Aboriginal population.

This diverse range of themes covers topics such as education, housing, culture and language, and reflects the complexity of Aboriginal communities and will serve to provide a better understanding of the quality of life for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

## Highlights

Aboriginal Strategies 2009 will feature five keynote speakers, two plenary sessions and more than 40 presenters.

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Dr. Doug Norris, Senior Vice-President and Chief Demographer, Environics Analytics
- Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, Government of Alberta
- Dr. Evan Adams, Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

For a complete list of speakers, visit our website.

Aussi disponible en français.

## Partners

**Government of Alberta** ■
Aboriginal Relations

**For more information:**

**Statistics Canada**
**Tel: 1-888-799-0050**
**Direct: 1-780-495-8578**
**E-mail: infostrategies@statcan.gc.ca**
**Web: www.statcan.gc.ca**
**Select "Workshops and conferences"**

# Aboriginal Strategies 2009

**Nov. 3, 2009 to Nov. 5, 2009**

**The Westin Hotel, Edmonton, AB**

**Share Knowledge**

**Empower People**

**Shape the Future**

# Registration form

## Conference Fees

**Early Bird Rate: $600.00**
**+ 5% GST = $630.00**

**** Early Bird Deadline Extended to Oct. 13.*

**Regular Rate: $650.00**
**+ 5% GST = $682.50**

***Group rates are available. For more information, contact the Registrar at 1-888-799-0050.***

Registration includes one ticket to the Evening Gala with entertainment and keynote speaker on Wednesday, Nov. 4., 2009. Additional banquet tickets are available for an extra $50 each, plus 5% GST ($52.50).

☐ **Yes, I will attend the banquet.**

☐ **Yes, I will need _____ extra banquet tickets.**

## Payment

Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐

AMEX ☐ Cheque ☐

$_____ total, including extra banquet tickets

Credit Card # _____

Expiry Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

GST Exempt # _____

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Department # _____

IS Code _____ Org. Code _____

Reference # _____

Full payment must accompany this form. Please make cheques payable to the "Receiver General for Canada" and mail to Statistics Canada, 300-10158 103rd St. NW, Edmonton, AB, T5J 0X6.

## Name and Contact Information

Surname _____

Given Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

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**Complete form and fax to 1-877-287-4369 or mail to:**

**Registrar,**
**Aboriginal Strategies 2009**
**Statistics Canada**
**300-10158 103rd St. NW**
**Edmonton, AB**
**T5J 0X6**

**E-mail:**
**regstrategies@statcan.gc.ca**

## Accommodation

The Westin Hotel
10135 100th St.
Edmonton, AB T5J 0N7
Tel: 1-800-228-3000
Web: www.thewestinedmonton.com
Reserve online: www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0903111286&key=145E6

Book rooms under "Statistics Canada" and receive a special conference rate before Oct. 13.

** Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received in writing, prior to Oct. 16, 2009 will receive a full refund less a $75 administration fee. After that date no refunds will be made, but substitutions will be permitted.*

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# Aboriginal Strategies 2009
# November 3-5
# The Westin Hotel
# Edmonton, Alberta

## Day 1 – November 3, 2009

**9:00 AM**

Opening Prayer and Opening Ceremony
Keynote Address by
**Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Alberta**

Gene Zwozdesky was elected to his fifth term as MLA for Edmonton-Mill Creek on March 3, 2008, and was appointed Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Deputy Government House Leader on March 12, 2008. In addition to his duties as MLA and minister he is currently the co-chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations, co-chair of the Cabinet Policy Committee on Public Safety and Services, and a member of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

Mr. Zwozdesky served as Minister of both the Education and the Community Development portfolios and Associate Minister of the departments of Health and Wellness and Capital Planning.

**10:30 AM** — **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Mr. Eric Guimond**<br>First Nations Teen Fertility and Community Well- Being | **Ms. Ellen Bobet**<br>Suicide and Community Characteristics in Inuit Nunangat |
| **Mr. Geoff Bowlby**<br>The Job Situation for Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve in Canada | **Mr. Charlie Hill**<br>Towards Meeting the Urban Aboriginal Housing Need |
| **Mr. Nick Hossack & Ms. Nathalie LaChance**<br>Determinants of Health for First Nations in Alberta | **Ms. Emma Palmantier**<br>Knowledge is Empowerment in First Nations' Communities |

**12:00 PM**

Luncheon and Keynote Address by
**Mr. Anil Arora, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Health and Labour Statistics Statistics Canada** and
**Ms. Pamela McCurry, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Strategic Direction, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**

Anil Arora, the recipient of the 2009 Apex Award for leadership, is the Assistant Chief Statistician responsible for Social, Health and Labour Statistics at Statistics Canada.
As the manager of the 2006 Census, Canada's first e-Census, Mr. Arora led an innovative and major redesign of the Census program, which places Canada at the forefront of survey taking in the world.

In addition to his functional responsibilities, Mr. Arora chairs and participates in a number of inter-departmental and corporate committees in the areas of Human Resource Management, Change Management and Employment Equity. He is active internationally, providing advice, papers and presentations to other Statistical agencies and organizations on a broad range of statistical and human resource management issues.

Pamela McCurry assumes the responsibilities of Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Strategic Direction since April 2009.

Prior to that, she served as Associate Assistant Attorney General, Aboriginal Affairs (2005-2009) and Senior General Counsel for Aboriginal Law and Strategic Policy (2002-2005), both in the Department of Justice.

Over the course of 25 years with the federal public service Pamela has held a number of positions that have provided her with a wide variety of strategic, operational and legal experience. She has served in legal services for a number of years and as a legal policy advisor on policy priorities and planning. She also led departmental operations business planning and strategic management support as well as secretariat support to departmental senior decision-making processes.

**1:45 PM** — **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dr. Cora Voyageur**<br>Bannock Winners: Aboriginal Women in Western Canada | **Mr. Wayne Helgason**<br>Aboriginal Population Characteristics in Winnipeg |
| **Ms. Cathleen Knotsch**<br>Housing Conditions and Human Health Among Inuit in Canada | **Dr. Judith Soon**<br>Barriers to Contraception Use Among Youth in Rural and Northern Communities |

**Dr. Lana Potts**
Addressing Gaps in Improving the Health of First Nations Children

**Mr. Jean Pierre Morin & Mr. Erik Anderson**
Historic Treaties in Western Canada: Perspectives and Socio-Economic Conditions, Part 1

**3:15 PM** — **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Mr. Dan Martel**<br>Aboriginal Information Communications and Technology | **Mr. Gord Stewart and Ms. Larisa Kreider**<br>City of Edmonton Services and the Urban Aboriginal Community |
| **Ms. Crystal Lennie**<br>Inuvialuit Regional Corporation - Inuit Health Data | **Mr. James Ross**<br>Shetah/Nabors: A Northern First Nation Business Success |

**Ms. Angela Matheson**
Building the Pathway of Change: The Design and Application of Culturally-Relevant Logic Models for Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Programs

**Ms. Jeanette Steffler and Mr. Eric McGregor**
Historic Treaties in Western Canada: Perspectives and Socio-Economic Conditions, Part 2

Aussi disponible en français

# Aboriginal Strategies 2009
# November 3-5
# The Westin Hotel
# Edmonton, Alberta

## Day 2 – November 4, 2009

**9:00 AM** — Morning Plenary Session
**Dr. Doug Norris, Senior Vice President and Chief Demographer, Environics Analytics**

Dr. Doug Norris is currently Senior Vice President and Chief Demographer of Environics Analytics, where he works with companies, governments, and non-profit sector organizations in using census and other statistical information in a variety of planning and marketing applications.

He has nearly 30 years of experience in social and demographic analysis at Statistics Canada including extensive experience in the Census program. Before joining Environics Analytics, Doug was Director General of Social and Demographic Statistics at Statistics Canada where he was responsible for a number of programs including the Aboriginal Statistics Program. A nationally known speaker and commentator on Canadian social and demographic trends, Dr. Norris is a frequent presenter at seminars and conferences across Canada, helping business and mainstream audiences understand the major forces affecting Canada's diverse population groups.

**10:30 AM** — **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ms. Jeannie Cranmer**<br>Implementing an Aboriginal Education and Employment Strategy | **Mr. Calvin Hansselmann**<br>Informing Program and Service Needs of Aboriginal Populations: A Geographic Approach |
| **Dr. Peter Hutchison**<br>Métis Health Surveillance: Developing Community Capacity to Utilize Health Statistics | **Dr. Carrie Bourassa**<br>Métis Health Status: The "Invisible" Problem |
| **Mr. Christopher Penney**<br>The Community Well-Being Index for Inuit Nunangat – 1996-2006 | **Ms. Cathy Connors**<br>Health Highlights for Inuit from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples and Aboriginal Children's Survey |

**12:00 PM** — Luncheon and Keynote Address by
**President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta**

Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras is one of the highest profile Métis women in Canada. Audrey's career in provincial Métis politics began in 1996 when she was elected to lead the Métis Nation of Alberta, as its first female President. From Métis identity to Métis rights and recognition, Audrey remains a key figure among Canada's political leaders.

Under her leadership, the Métis Nation of Alberta continues to be a model of success in representing and pursuing the social, political, and economic interests of the Métis people in Alberta. In addition, the credibility of the Métis Nation of Alberta continues to increase, as evidenced by activities over the past 11 years with Audrey Poitras at the helm where the legitimacy and accountability of the Métis Nation of Alberta has risen to unprecedented heights. Audrey leads the Métis Nation of Alberta with the strength and support of her people.

**1:45 PM** — **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dr. Rachel Eni**<br>What We Know About the Health of First Nation Children and Families and How We Come to Know it | **Dr. Kathi Avery Kinew & Ms. Amanda Meawasige**<br>Seeking Numbers First Nations Can Trust |
| **Mr. Robert Diaz**<br>Comprehensive Community Planning as a Guide for Treaty Making in BC | **Mr. Carmen Kardoes and Mr. Kevin Kowalchuk**<br>Northern Strategy |
| **Mr. Robert Barrett**<br>Urbanization of the Aboriginal Population in Alberta: What is Census Data Telling Us About Trends? | **Ms. Amber Potts**<br>Urban Aboriginal Population |

**3:00 PM** — **Tradeshow Booths and Networking**

**6:00 PM** — **Evening Banquet**

Keynote Address
**Dr. Evan Adams**
**Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, Government of British Columbia**

Dr. Evan Adams, of the Sliammon First Nation (Powell River, B.C.), completed his MD at the University of Calgary, his Aboriginal Family Practice residency at St. Paul's Hospital/UBC in Vancouver, and is currently the Director of the division of Aboriginal People's Health, UBC Faculty of Medicine, and the Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport (Victoria, B.C.). He recently completed a Masters of Public Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD (Class of 2009).

**Evening Entertainment by Susan Aglukark**

Singer / songwriter Susan Aglukark is one of Canada's most unique artists and a leading voice in Canadian music. She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary pop music arrangements to tell the stories of her people, the Inuit of Arctic Canada. The emotional depth and honesty of her lyrics; her pure, clear voice and themes of hope, spirit and encouragement have captivated and inspired listeners from all walks of life.

Susan had held command performances for HRH Queen Elizabeth (twice), Canadian Prime Ministers Jean Chrétien and Brian Mulroney and the President of France, Jacques Chirac. She has performed for Nelson Mandela and Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson as well as several other dignitaries. Equally important to her are the many, many villages across Canada and the Arctic.

Most recently, Susan was invited into the Order of Canada and was presented her Officer of the Order of Canada award in September of 2005 for her contribution both musically and as a workshop facilitator and mentor in the aboriginal community.

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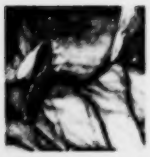

**Aboriginal Strategies 2009**
**November 3-5**
**The Westin Hotel**
**Edmonton, Alberta**

| Day 3 – November 5, 2009 | |
|---|---|
| 9:00 AM | **Morning Plenary Session** |
| 10:30 AM | **Concurrent Breakout Sessions** |
| **Ms. Nancy Zukewich**<br>Early Childhood Development: Insights from the Aboriginal Children's Survey | **Dr. Noreen Willows**<br>Obesity in Aboriginal People: What More Do We Need to Know? |
| **Ms. Cathy Stock**<br>Education and Employment: Aboriginal People in BC's Labour Market | **Mr. Dave Ward**<br>Urban Aboriginal Population |
| **Ms. Jo-Ann Greene and Ms. Emily Brascoupe**<br>Bill C-8: Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act | **Ms Jacqueline Quinless**<br>Aboriginal Lone Parent Families in Canada in 2006: A Statistical Profile |
| 12:00 PM | **Luncheon** |
| 1:15 PM | **Data in Use Panel** |
| Panel members will discuss their experience finding, collecting, processing and analysing data.<br>Panel members include<br>**Ms. Jane Badets, Director, Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Statistics Canada**<br>and<br>**Ms. Susan Cardinal Lamouche, Elected Secretary, Métis Settlements General Council.** | |
| 2:15 PM | **Closing Ceremony** |
| A wrap up of the conference discussing lessons learned and areas of interest including closing remarks from **Ms. Lise Rivais, Director, Western Region and Northern Territories, Statistics Canada.** | |

Please Contact Us to Register


**Aboriginal Strategies 2009**
Statistics Canada
Western Region and Northern Territories
300 -10158 103rd Street NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 0X6

**Toll-Free Phone: 1-888-799-0050**
**Direct Phone: 780-495-8578**
**Toll-Free Fax: 1-877-287-4369**
**E-mail:** regstrategies@statcan.gc.ca


**Conference Fees**

Early Bird Deadline Extended to **October 13**.

Early Bird Rate: $600.00
Regular Rate: $650.00

Group rates are available. For more information, please contact us.

Registration includes oneticket to the Evening Gala on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009. Additional bancuet tickets are available for an extra $50 each.

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*Infoline*

October 16, 2009
Issue 09–41

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

# *BC at a glance . . .*

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jul1/2009 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,455.2 | 1.6 |
| Canada | 33,739.9 | 1.2 |
| **GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 27)** | | |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 2008 | % change on one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 199,214 | 3.5 |
| GDP *($ 2002 millions)* | 164,161 | -0.3 |
| GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)* | 37,466 | -1.9 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)* | 26,110 | 3.3 |
| **TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)** | | % change on prev. month |
| Manufacturing Shipments - Aug | 2,660 | 0.0 |
| Merchandise Exports - Aug | 1,954 | -8.2 |
| Retail Sales - Jul | 4,413 | -0.8 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | % change on | 12-month avg |
| *(all items - Sep 2009)* | one year ago | % change |
| BC | -1.2 | 0.4 |
| Vancouver | -1.0 | 0.6 |
| Victoria | -1.0 | 0.6 |
| Canada | -0.9 | 0.6 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | | % change on |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | Sep '09 | prev. month |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,453 | 0.2 |
| Employed - BC | 2,270 | 0.6 |
| Unemployed - BC | 183 | -4.5 |
| | | Aug '09 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 7.4 | 7.8 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 8.4 | 8.7 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | Oct 14/2009 | Oct 15/2008 |
| Prime Business Rate | 2.25 | 4.25 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 3.80 | 6.35 |
| - 5 year | 5.84 | 7.20 |
| **US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | Oct 14/2009 | Oct 15/2008 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ per US $ | 1.0292 | 1.1802 |
| *(closing rate)* US $ per Cdn $ | 0.9748 | 0.8418 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | | % change on |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | Sep '09 | one year ago |
| BC | 810.38 | 2.5 |
| Canada | 813.44 | 2.1 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

## Small Business Profile 2009

The 2009 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on British Columbia's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

## Population & Household Projections

The latest British Columbia population projections (PEOPLE 34) are now available. BC Stats produces population and household projections for British Columbia and for a number of sub-provincial geographies in the province, including: Development Regions, Regional Districts, Health Authorities, Health Service Delivery Areas, Local Health Areas, College Regions, School Districts, and six Special Regions.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/popproj.asp

## British Columbia Wellness Atlas 2008

The dynamic and highly configurable atlas allows users greater flexibility to explore the regional variations and correlations of the wellness data. In total, 40 indicators are drawn from the CCHS (Canadian Community Health Survey) and 27 indicators are from the 2006 Census of Canada and 2008 Socio-Demographic variables from BC Stats. The Wellness Atlas presents information in a geographical context (Health Service Delivery Areas), revealing spatial variations and patterns across British Columbia. To display your own unique dataset, contact Pat Bluemel to discuss.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp

## Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, August 2009
- Consumer Price Index, October 2009

## Next week

- No subscription releases

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca